



## Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

### New Information in Blue Text

<b>Event Name</b>	22-0009 Wildfire Outbreak 17MAR
<b>Date</b>	April 13, 2022
<b>Time</b>	9:00 AM
<b>Operational Period</b>	8:00 AM April 12 to 8:00 AM April 13, 2022
<b>Report Number</b>	27

Regions Affected	
<b>TDEM Regions Affected</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
<b>DDCs Active</b>	1, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 19 & 20

**STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:** Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) received 6 new requests for assistance for wildfire suppression operations on Tuesday, April 12. Elevated to critical fire weather conditions are forecasted for the western half of Texas today.

**NWS Fire Weather Outlook Valid: 7AM 4/13 to 7AM 4/14.**



## **Day 1 Fire Weather Outlook: CRITICAL FIRE WEATHER AREA FOR PORTIONS OF THE SOUTHERN HIGH PLAINS AND SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS**

### **Synopsis**

A strong upper low and active mid-level jet over the center of the CONUS will continue to amplify today, keeping strong flow over the Southwest and southern High Plains. At the surface, a cold front moving through the Plains early this morning will scour surface moisture resulting in very dry airmass. Strong westerly winds and dry conditions will support active fire weather conditions within dry fuels.

### **WEATHER**

#### **Southern High Plains into west Texas**

As the upper trough/low over the Plains/Midwest continues to lift away, strong northwesterly flow aloft will fill in across the Southwest and southern High Plains. Progression of the upper-level system has generally been slower than previous guidance, suggesting some misalignment between the strongest winds and diurnal heating. While winds will be slightly weaker/delayed, frequent gusts to 35 mph along with strong subsidence and down-sloping should still favor extremely dry surface conditions. Model soundings showing mean mixed-layer RH values as low as 2-3% coincident with the winds which should support widespread Critical fire weather conditions within extremely dry fuels. The highest confidence in winds of 30+ mph appears to be across far eastern NM closer to the ejecting mid-level jet. While confidence is lower, a few hours of localized Extremely Critical conditions may occur within a corridor from eastern NM through the southwestern TX Panhandle.

On April 12, Governor Abbott directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to prepare additional state resources for mobilization as Texans face critical-to-extreme wildfire weather conditions in the Western half of the state and severe storm threats in the Eastern half of the state. The Texas State Emergency Operations Center (SOC) is operating at Level II: Escalated Response in support of severe weather and wildfire response.

According to the Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS), a Southern Plains Wildfire Outbreak is possible, April 12, in the Texas Panhandle. This event may impact communities near Canadian, Amarillo, Childress, Lubbock, and Midland where extremely dry vegetation will be subjected to above normal temperatures, low humidity, and high wind speeds. A heightened threat of fire danger through Wednesday includes the Panhandle, South Plains, Permian Basin, West Texas, Big Country, Concho Valley, Texoma, and the Border Region.

TAMFS has activated more than 325 state firefighters, 175 local firefighters from 56 different departments through the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) including 45 engines and has called in more than 100 firefighters from 12 states. TAMFS is utilizing more than 35 aviation resources including 3 large

airtankers, 15 single engine air tankers, six air attack platforms, and five type 1 helicopters.

TPWD Game Wardens have assisted and will continue to aid in evacuations and traffic control, and TPWD's State Parks Division has firefighters supporting active fires in the Central Texas area.

DPS continues to support the state's response to wildfires and severe weather by assisting with evacuations, security, roving patrols, neighborhood reentry, damage assessments, and aerial surveys of fire and tornado damage.

TxDOT is using Electronic Messaging Signs on highways to alert the public of the high fire danger, and TxDOT personnel are on standby to respond with crews to clear roads impacted by severe weather.

RRC is communicating with gas utilities and pipeline companies to respond to wildfire issues if fires threaten supply to customers and will work with community assets to establish timelines for recovery if needed.

PUCT reminds citizens to never approach or touch downed power lines, as the lines could still be live. Also, report downed lines or outages to local authorities and local utility officials. Texans can find contact information to report down lines and monitor power outage maps on the PUCT Storm Resources page, [puc.texas.gov/storm/contact.html](http://puc.texas.gov/storm/contact.html).

The Texas Emergency Management Task Force (TX EMTF) has three severe weather support packages and three wildland fire support packages on standby should they need to be activated.

Texans can visit [tdem.texas.gov/](http://tdem.texas.gov/) and click on the Spring Wildfires button for wildfire resource information, and [ready.gov/severe-weather](http://ready.gov/severe-weather) for severe storm safety tips.

On April 1, Governor Abbott amended the Disaster Declaration, adding Andrews, Aransas, Archer, Bee, Bell, Borden, Bosque, Brewster, Cameron, Coke, Concho, Cooke, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dawson, Dimmit, Duval, Ector, Edwards, Gaines, Garza, Hemphill, Hidalgo, Howard, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kimble, Kleberg, Live Oak, Martin, Maverick, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Nueces, Palo Pinto, Parker, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Real, Refugio, Roberts, Terrell, Tom Green, Upton, Wichita, Willacy, Winkler, Wise, Zapata, and Zavala counties.

On March 29, Governor Abbott encouraged Texans to remain vigilant and informed on weather conditions as fire danger and severe weather threaten the state.  
(Complete Statement Here)

On March 27, Governor Abbott amended the Disaster Declaration, adding Medina County.

On March 21, Governor Abbott amended the Disaster Declaration, adding Blanco, Erath, Hood, Runnels, and Starr counties.

On March 18, Governor Abbott issued a Disaster Declaration due to an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property in Brooks, Brown, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Grayson, Mason, Potter, Randall, and Williamson Counties.

On March 16, Governor Abbott directed TDEM to activate additional state resources as escalated fire weather conditions continue to impact the state.

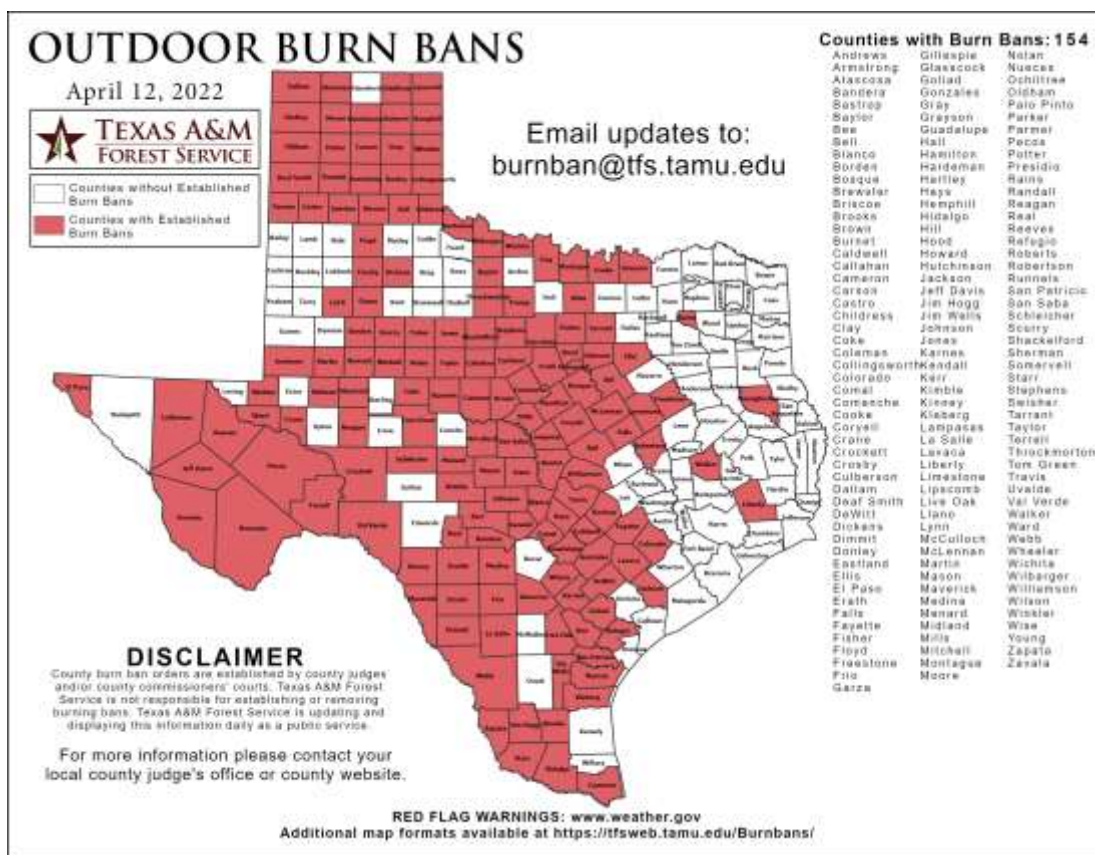
On March 15, Governor Abbott directed TDEM to mobilize state resources as Texas faces increased fire weather conditions.

Access damage surveys, find an evacuation shelter, and view wildfire resources.

Visit our March Wildfires Disaster page for more information:

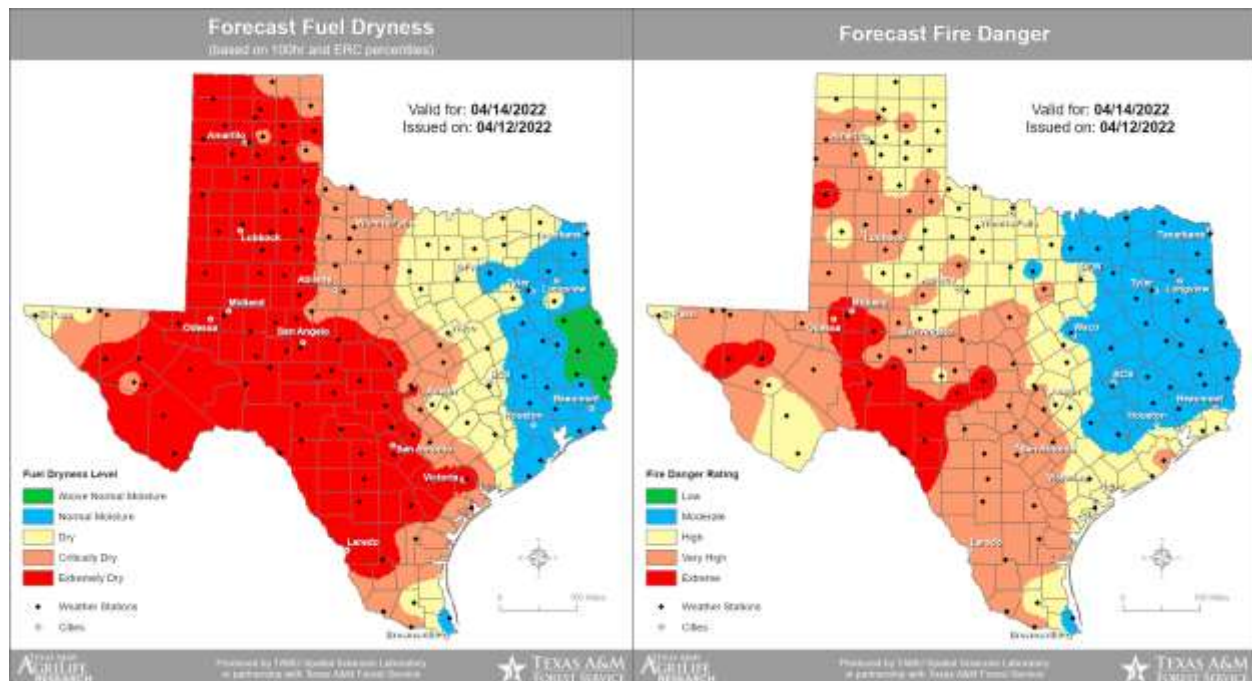
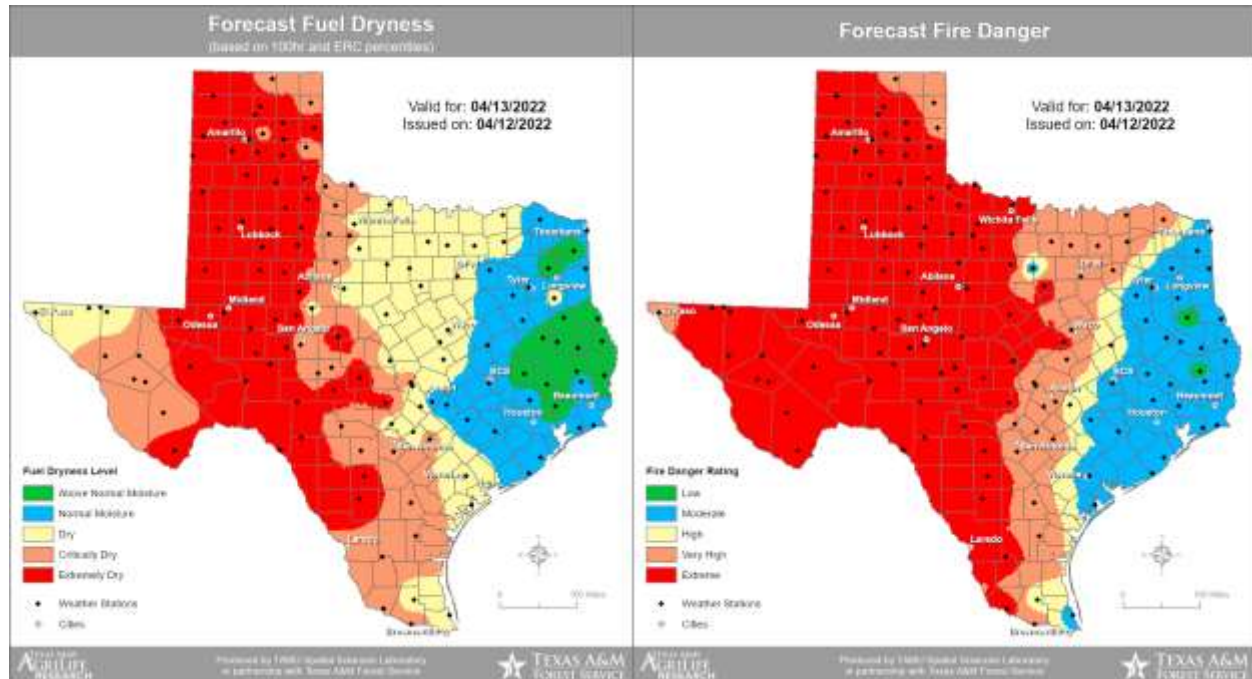
<https://www.tdem.texas.gov/disasters/2022-march-wildfires>.

There are currently 154 Texas counties out of 254 with a Burn Ban in effect.





## Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) – Predictive Services:



## OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & effective response and recovery operations.

3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

## **Region 2 (Includes DDCs 13, 14, 15, 16A, 16B, 16C, and 16D)**

**DDC 14 – Lufkin** (Includes: Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler Counties)

**Houston County:** [Burke](#): 547 acres – 100% contained.

## **Region 3 (Includes DDCs 19, 20, 21, and 24)**

**DDC 20 – Corpus Christi** (Includes: Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties)

DDC 20 increased their readiness level to Level III (Increased Readiness Level).

**Brooks County:** [Ballard](#): 60 acres – 100% contained.

## **Region 4 (Includes DDCs 8, 9A, 9B and 10)**

**DDC 9A – Midland** (Includes: Andrews, Borden, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Martin, Midland, and Winkler Counties)

**Howard County:** [Mitchell](#): 860 acres - 95% contained.

## **Region 5 (Includes DDCs 1, 2, 3, and 7)**

**DDC 1 – Amarillo** (Includes: Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, and Wheeler Counties)

DDC 1 activated to a Level II at noon on Tuesday April 12.

**Randall County:** [Little Buffalo](#): 400 acres - 95% contained.

**DDC 2 – Lubbock** (Includes: Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum Counties)

**Crosby County:** [Plum Creek](#): 460 acres - 100% contained.

**Lubbock County:** [Research](#): 61.3 acres - 50% contained.

**DDC 3 – Wichita Falls** (Includes: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young Counties)

**Hardeman County:** [Hines](#): 307 acres – 90% contained.

**Wichita County:** [Clara](#): 20 acres - 100% contained.

## **Region 6 (Includes DDCs 11, 12, 17, 18A, 18B, and 23)**

**DDC 18B – Bexar** (Includes: Atascosa, Bexar, Karnes, McMullen, and Wilson Counties)

**Bexar County:** [Training Area 23](#): 3,005 acres – 85% contained.

**DDC 23 – Killeen** (Includes: Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills and San Saba Counties)

**Coryell County:** [Beecham Gap](#): 17 acres – 100% contained.

## **RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS**

**Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)** – Regional staff have been deployed to impacted areas to assist local officials in damage assessment and identification of needs. The SOC continues to facilitate information sharing and the coordination of response and recovery operations.

**TDEM Communications Coordination Group (CCG):** Communications platforms are being identified for possible support if required.

**TDEM Disaster Recovery Task Force (DRTF):** DRTF HQ staff continue to support mass care at the SOC and actively monitoring the weather situation. DRTF regional staff continue to support local jurisdictions affected by wildfires with damage assessments and organizing VOAD support.

**TDEM Mass Care:** State partners are supporting local jurisdictions from the wildfires.

**TDEM State Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL):** Disaster non-profits and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters are actively deployed and supporting jurisdictions in TDEM Regions 1, 2, 5 and 6. Planning meetings between local

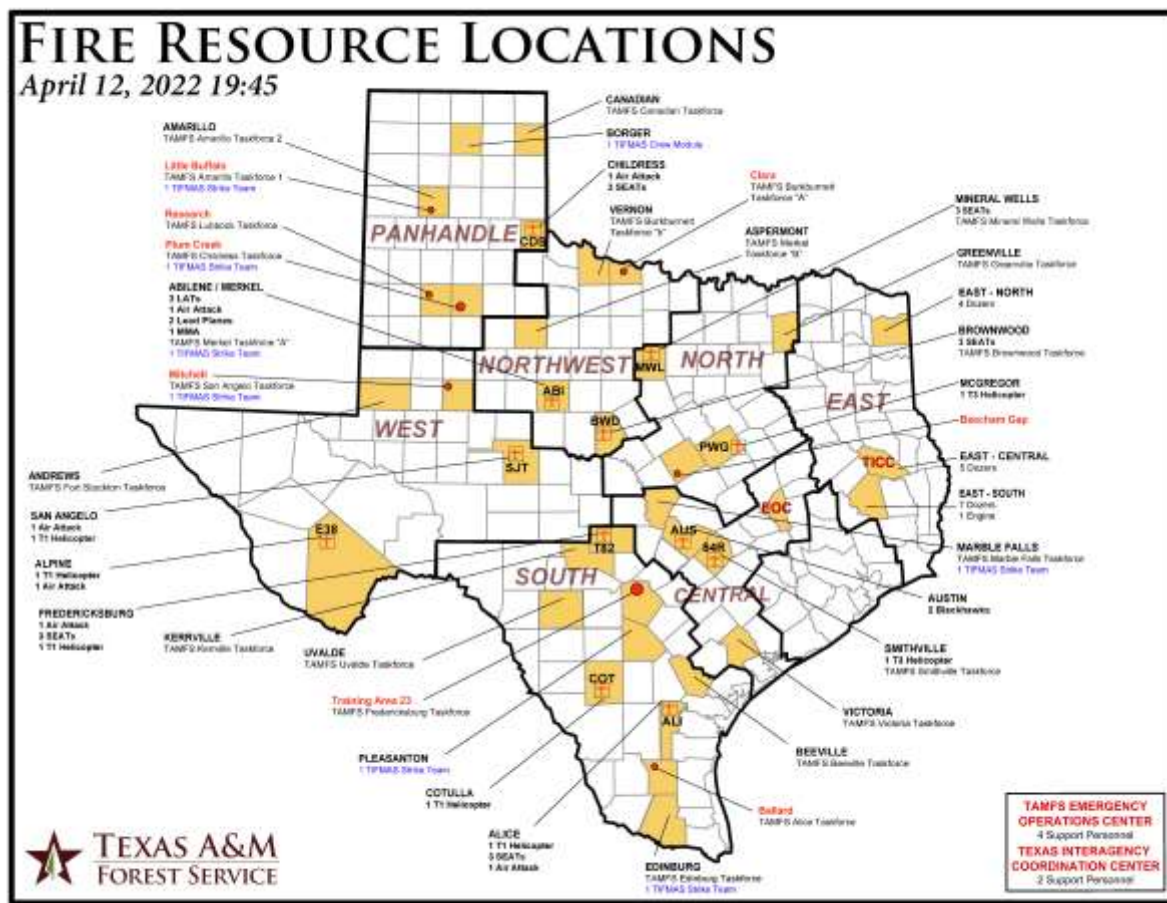
jurisdictions and disaster nonprofits for establishing Multi Agency Resource Centers are ongoing.

**Texas Emergency Management Assistance Team (TEMAT):** The DRTF HQ staff continue to support mass care at the SOC. DRTF regional staff continue to support local jurisdictions affected by wildfires with damage assessments and organizing VOAD support.

**Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service (Agrilife):** AgriLife continues to maintain situational awareness of wildfire incidents across the state.

**Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)/Texas A&M Public Works Response Team (TX-PWRT):** TEEX/TX-PWRT personnel managing ESF 3 from the Remote SOC in Austin.

**Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS):** TAMFS received 6 new requests for assistance for wildfire suppression operations on Tuesday, April 12. Incident Updates can be found here: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>.





**Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC):** The PUC continues to provide a liaison to the SOC and is monitoring for any outages or other issues with electricity providers. Restoring service where practical behind the fire(s).

**Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC):** The RRC will continue to work with natural gas service providers throughout this event.

**Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC):** TAHC continues to maintain situational awareness.

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):** TCEQ has staff available to assist local governments with any air/water/waste related issues including drinking water/wastewater issues and/or emergency response activities.

**Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA):** TDA continues to staff the Remote SOC as needed as part of the ESF-11 Team. STAR Funds accepting donations and requests for financial assistance.

**Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) – Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF):** One Wildland Fire Support (WLFS) Packages are on standby from EMTF's 1, & 9.

**Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** TxDOT is staffing the remote SOC.

**Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS):** TXDPS continues to staff the remote SOC to maintain situational awareness.

**Texas Military Department (TMD):** TMD continues supporting TAMFS in suppressing wildland fires in Texas.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):** TPWD has been tasked to provide two firefighting brush trucks.

#### STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TDEM DRTF	DRTF HQ Staff	2		Assigned	R-SOC
Agrilife, TAMUS	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TAMFS	Large Air Tanker (LAT)		4	Available	Abilene
TAMFS	Aerial Supervision Aircraft (AA)		1	Available	Abilene
TAMFS	Lead Plane		2	Available	Abilene
TAMFS	Multi Mission Aircraft		1	Available	Abilene
TAMFS	Type I Helicopter		1	Available	Alice
TAMFS	AA		1	Available	Alice
TAMFS	Single Engine Air Tanker (SEATs)		3	Available	Alice
TAMFS	Type 1 Helicopter		1	Available	Alpine
TAMFS	AA		1	Available	Alpine
TAMFS	SEATs		3	Available	Brownwood
TAMFS	AA		1	Available	Childress
TAMFS	SEATs		3	Available	Childress
TAMFS	AA		1	Available	Fredericksburg
TAMFS	SEATs		3	Available	Fredericksburg
TAMFS	Type 1 Helicopter		1	Available	Fredericksburg
TAMFS	Type 3 Helicopter		1	Available	McGregor
TAMFS	Single Engine Air Tanker (Fire Boss)		3	Available	Mineral Wells
TAMFS	AA		1	Available	San Angelo
TAMFS	Type I Helicopter		1	Available	San Angelo
TAMFS	Type 3 Helicopter		1	Available	Smithville
TAMFS	Type 1 Helicopter		1	Available	Cotulla
TAMFS	TAMFS Taskforce	13 Taskforces		Available	Various
TAMFS	Dozer/Tractor Plow		23	Available	Various
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Available	Marble Falls
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Available	Edinburg
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Available	Childress
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Assigned	Pleasanton
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Available	Big Spring
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Available	Amarillo
TIFMAS	TIFMAS Crew Module	22	2	Available	Amarillo
TIFMAS	TIFMAS ST	25	5	Assigned	Training Area 23

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TIFMAS	TIFMAS Coordinators	2		Available	College Station & Merkel
TIFMAS	Overhead	1		Available	Brownwood
TEEX/TX-TF1 & 2	ESF 9 SOC LNO	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TEEX/TX-PWRT	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	R-SOC
TAHC	SOC Representative	1		Assigned	R-SOC
DSHS EMTF	SOC Liaison	1		Available	R-SOC
DSHS EMTF	Wildland Fire Support Pkg	1		Standby	EMTF's 1, & 9
PUC	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
RRC	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TCEQ	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TCEQ	DDEOC Liaison	1		Assigned	Abilene
TDA	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TXDPS	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC
TMD	Rotary Wing (Medium MRP)	16	2	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1		Assigned	R-SOC

**FINAL COMMENTS:** The State Operations Center (SOC) remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) for COVID-19 pandemic response with additional staffing for Wildfire Outbreak response and recovery. The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor these situations and will provide additional situation reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

Level I	(Emergency Conditions)
Level II	(Escalated Response Conditions)
Level III	(Increased Readiness Conditions)
Level IV	(Normal Conditions)

*This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at:*  
<https://tdem-web.webflow.io/response/state-operations-center#tab-2>

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